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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea/China

DATE DISTR. 26 March 1951

SUBJECT North Korean and Chinese Communist Military Activity in the Seoul-P'yonggang Area.

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DATE OF INFO. 8 February-12 March 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



1. About 12 March in Yongdu-ri, Seoul, the People's Committee called a mass meeting and ordered those assembled to evacuate to Ch'ongsan-myon (127-07, 37-58). Of the 150 who were forced to leave, all but 20 escaped en route and returned to Seoul. On 9 March, 10 North Korean troops were seen escorting 200 young women northward towards Tongduch'on (127-03, 37-56).
2. On 8 March the 3,000 refugees from Seoul in the mountains at Ch'ongsan-myon were told by the North Korean police and officials, who had entered Seoul early in January, that they were only temporarily evacuated for strategic reasons, since by the end of March the North Koreans and Chinese Communists would surround Seoul and the UN troops. A battalion of North Korean troops in the area was digging trenches. The refugees agreed that the Communists arrested and killed relatively few this time when leaving Seoul.
3. On 7 March a small number of North Korean troops were digging trenches on the road half-way between Yonch'on (127-05, 38-06) and Ch'orwon (127-12, 38-15). On 6 March a company of North Korean troops was reconstructing a railway bridge over the Hant'anch'on at Chongok (127-04, 38-01), about 500 meters from the original bridge. The pedestrian and vehicle bridge alongside the railroad bridge was completed on 2 March. The railroad bridge was to be completed by 15 March.
4. On 2 March, 3,000 North Korean and Chinese Communist mixed troops were in tunnels in the hill 50 meters behind the Christian church in P'yonggang (127-18, 38-25). Troops and local police eat at neighboring homes and work in offices in the tunnels at night. On 28 February rice and grain were collected as taxes in kind, and stockpiled in the pinewoods and covered with pine branches on the slopes of Unma-san (127-20, 38-28) in the area nine kilometers northeast of P'yonggang.
5. From 8 February to 2 March twenty-eight villagers were conscripted to carry supplies and wounded Chinese Communists from Taegwang-ni (127-06, 38-11) to Masan-ni (126-36, 38-32), where 30 of the 40 houses had been destroyed by UN air-raids. Near the village a large number of Chinese Communist wounded were treated in a large dugout by a staff of 40 medical corpsmen, including doctors. About 4,000 Chinese Communists were in the area.

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6. On 25 February 2,500 troops of the North Korean 544* and 897* Units were at Maehoe-ri (127-30, 38-27) with a small number of guerrilla troops and 40 women nurses. The troops confiscated 70 oxen for supply transport. The 544 Unit engaged in liaison (sic)* work between P'yonggang, Hoeyang (127-37, 38-42), Kumhwa (127-27, 38-17), and Hwach'on (127-43, 38-06).
7. The North Korean troops on 10 February placed destroyed planes around the Pyonggang airfield, covering them with a few branches. The UN planes bombed these on 10 and 11 February. Empty drums and damaged vehicles were arranged along the road near Yongmi-kogae (127-21, 38-23), eight kilometers south of P'yonggang, as dummy targets for UN planes. On 4 March UN planes bombed dummy artillery positions constructed with tree trunks at the foot of the hill along the road two kilometers south of Taegwang-ni.
8. On 10 February five U.S., four Turkish, and five ROK war prisoners, guarded by North Korean military police and moving north at Saedunji (127-58, 38-26), were spotted by UN planes. The U.S. prisoners swung both hands in the air left to right, for which they were disciplined by the military police. They were taken into a small house and fed a handful of cereal each.

25X1A *  Comment. Informants were unable to further identify these units; they are possibly signal corps units.

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